

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FBID

FROM : Field Operations Officer

SUBJECT: Notes for London Trip

DATE: 28 May 1954

1. Duplication of FBIS-BBC coverage has been reduced to a level where in recent months it has been in the neighborhood of eighty of the same programs which appear on the coverage schedules of the respective services. This is roughly a one-third reduction from the situation when we first attempted to reduce duplication a few years ago. An analysis of the duplication appearing on the FBIS and BBC coverage schedules for April indicates that approximately twenty-five hours per day of voice monitoring and twenty-four hours per day of press monitoring (mostly Morse) are duplicated. This means that each day FBIS is employing approximately ten voice monitors and five code monitors, not to mention associated members of support personnel, in order to perform identical coverage. The term "identical coverage" is used loosely however since the broadcasts are identical as they reach the respective monitor services, but in many cases are processed so differently by the respective services that the resultant products are considerably different. The great majority of the duplication is carried out for reason of convenience to one or the other service, often times amounting almost to necessity, or because methods of exploitation are so at variance that one service does not properly serve the other. This duplicate program is basically desirable so long as it can be continued without too much strain, but could be substantially cut at such time when one or the other service feels the luxury no longer can be afforded. In such a reduction, aside from the differences in exploitation, the principal loss would be in communication time; for many of the shows in which BBC duplicates FBIS, the Mediterranean Bureau excepted, the assumption of full responsibility by FBIS would introduce time lags which would be prohibitive from the BBC news room point of view.

2. While the foregoing is offered as an indication of the extent to which savings might be made under extreme conditions, there are a few matters of duplication between Caversham and Kyrenia which undoubtedly will be covered by the Mediterranean Bureau coordination meeting which takes place approximately the same time as your general coordination meeting. Of these the only duplication which I feel requires specific mention from Headquarters is the Bulgarian Home Service. All seven of the Sofia Home shows listed on the current BBC coverage schedule duplicate the effort of Kyrenia, which has primary responsibility. In addition the French Morse for Abroad from Sofia is also duplicated. It has been reported that the BBC News Bureau does not require this coverage for reason of speed; therefore, the problem would appear to be BBC's inability to occupy a Bulgarian monitor profitably or reluctance to drop him from the staff altogether.

*which Roger says he gave it* 25X1

3. In [ ]'s memorandum to [ ] dated 21 May, several pertinent points about Kyrenia's capacity to absorb BBC coverage ~~are~~ made. The first, Belgrade Home Service, contains a joker in that although Mediterranean Bureau has the voice monitors to handle Belgrade Home Service, it does not have the code staff to handle TANYUG, and [ ] point that coverage of the two should not be separated is absolutely correct if reasonable efficiency is desired. The second, Turkish Home Service, has been recognized for some time and results both from news room requirements (at least formerly) and BBC reluctance to reduce its Turkish staff. This would be the most easily absorbed coverage at the Mediterranean Bureau. The third, the Rumanian Home Service, would require one and preferably two new monitors, as [ ] states, owing to the introduction of new requirements on our erstwhile Rumanian staff. These might be curtailed temporarily during recruiting but are desirable from a long range point of view. The fourth, the Bulgarian Home Service, coincides essentially with my previous comment on Bulgaria. 25X1

4. Increased communications loads which would result from general reduction of duplication or transfer of BBC responsibilities to FBIS bureaus could generally be absorbed by more stringent requirements on the part of BBC which would result in tighter editing by the FBIS field. In spite of the recent BBC guidance I suspect that BBC is receiving from FBIS as much or more material than it can most profitably handle. This remark would not apply too well in the case of Kyrenia; it is believed that the Mediterranean Bureau file could be edited more tightly for Washington in order to squeeze on additional loads which might be required. In my estimation this would be more desirable than ceasing to wire file material which is now airmailed from London.

5. The monitored copy from the Baltic Republics, of which Harry Brooks has supplied us with samples, originates with two sources: 1. an exiled group with a receiving station in the vicinity of Hamburg and offices in the French Zone of Germany, whose samples include Latvian and Lithuanian text; and 2. the Free Latvian News Service, P.O. Box 11033, Stockholm, Sweden, whose material appears to include only the Latvian stations. Although the sample, which is extensive, includes no Estonian copy [ ] has been under the impression that it may be available. At any rate I am quite certain that an Estonian refugee group was, and possibly still is, monitoring Tallinn from Stockholm. The material is in the form of complete text of all spoken information of significance, so far as can be determined. It is ~~on~~ written in the respective vernaculars. The material is currently purchased by VOA at Munich, and Brooks has been informed in strictest confidence that BBC also purchases this material; he does not know whether to believe this report in view of the Stockholm operation and is most interested to obtain any positive confirmation or refutation. FBIS could buy this material very cheaply, allegedly for several hundred dollars per year, and could translate it into English at the German Bureau very reasonably, from which point it could be filed to Washington and London. The principal disadvantage is that a number of Russian

Regionals outside the Baltic Republics ~~are~~ covered by BBC at Stockholm could not be backstopped in this fashion; to mention a few, Murmansk, Archangelsk, Petrozavodsk, Kaliningrad, and extensive material from Leningrad, Minsk, and Ivanovo and associated studios. It is not beyond the realm of possibility, however, that if BBC Stockholm collapses some of these stations might be tapped from the British Zone of Germany.

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